March 2021

Highlights

2021 ASPHN Annual Meeting
*Resilience in Practice*
Attend informational and collaborative sessions virtually June 14-18. There is much excitement about the State Sharing session on public health advances resulting from COVID-19. No-cost registration opens soon. Check out the [draft agenda](#).

Get Involved: First Foods Nutrition Career Support Group
This group is open to all but is especially offering support to nutritionists new to working in lactation. The next meeting is March 17th 11 am EST. Contact [martha@asphn.org](mailto:martha@asphn.org).

Call for Manuscripts for the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health Special Issue
Special issue entitled “Nutrition and Health Equity: Revisiting the Importance of Fruit and Vegetable Availability, Purchasing, and Consumption.” Submit by November 30, 2021. [Learn more](#).

Education Opportunity: Bowling Green State University, 2021 Public & Allied Health Symposium
Will be held April 9, 2021 - 8:45am-12:45pm EST, with the theme Bridging Health through Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Learn more on the [conference webpage](#). Continue reading for more education opportunities later in this newsletter.

Features

Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
The Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN) is a non-profit membership organization committed to advancing health equity through public health nutrition leadership.

**Our Mission**
To strengthen nutrition policy, programs and environments for all people through development of public health nutrition leaders and collective action of members nationwide.

**Our Vision**
Healthy eating and active living for everyone.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)
How was the ASPHN Clean Away COVID Campaign developed?

Clean Away COVID was tested and piloted for nearly two months among numerous state and tribal WIC programs. Survey results indicate WIC clients and staff overwhelmingly found the information helpful and easy to understand. Don’t wait to disseminate this information within your state. Link to the website and download the toolkit today! For more information, contact Lourdes Pogue at lourdes@asphn.org or 814-255-2829, ext 710.

ASPHN COVID-19 Resource Library

Visit ASPHN’s COVID-19 Resource Library today! It is comprised of categorized links to websites offering accurate and timely information and guidance related to COVID-19. New links have just been added in Funding, Food Security, Health Equity, Early Care and Education and Older Adults categories.

Safety at the Heart of ASPHN’s Clean Away COVID Campaign

Did you know that cleaning and disinfecting your home are two separate steps? Most of us don’t, and it’s one of the reasons chemical disinfectants have been dangerously misused during the pandemic.

Protect your state by adding ASPHN’s Clean Away COVID campaign to your COVID resource offerings. This outstanding public health campaign teaches families how to maintain safer and healthier home environments through the use of soap and water for simple surface cleaning and frequent handwashing. Clean Away COVID also offers important guidance on the safer use of disinfectants, which should ONLY be used if someone in the home is sick or suspected to be sick.

The campaign’s learning modules, videos, posters and infographics are available in Spanish and English. All materials were developed under the guidance and expertise of pediatric environmental health scientists and the CDC/ATSDR.

Check Your Inbox: ASPHN Board of Directors Election

It’s time to vote for the open positions on the ASPHN 2021-2022 Board. Voting members received their ballot and instructions via email on March 5.

Who votes in ASPHN
Elections? Council members vote for a chair-elect of their council. If someone is a member of all three councils they will receive a ballot for each council. State Appointed Members (formerly called Designees) vote for the president-elect, secretary, two directors at large, and three Governance Committee members.

Your vote counts! ASPHN requires a response rate of 30% in order for the results to be valid. For example, the MCH Nutrition Council needs 89 of its members to cast their vote!

Position terms begin August 1. View the descriptions of open board positions on ASPHN's About page. Contact Governance Committee Chair Diane Peck with questions at diane.peck@alaska.gov.

Welcome New Members!

ASPHN welcomed 24 new members in February.

Each member, from student to seasoned professional, contributes to the depth and breadth of experience that ASPHN can draw from.

It is our collective experience that allows us to create products, services and advocacy plans that make healthy living the easy choice for all people.

Thank you for joining us!

**General Members:**
- Kristine Chung, MPH, RDN
- Katie Matsushima
- Jordan Smith in the HI State Dept of Health
- George Centeio
- Nadine Marchessault in the HI State Dept of Education

**Associate Members:**
- Rachel Daddio
- Tiffany LeRoy, MS
- Maureen O’Brien, MPH in the NJ State Dept of Health
- Sara Jones, MS, RD, LD, CLC in the SC Dept of Health
- Carole Kelinhofer, MPH, IBCLC in the MN Dept of Health
- Eftixia Nerantzis, MPH, RDN, CDN in the NY State Dept of Health
- Sarah McWhirter, MPH, RDN, LDN, CPH, CLC in the GA Department of Public Health

**Membership Tip: Find ASPHN members in your state!**

All ASPHN members are featured in our Member Directory. Maximize this beneficial resource and find peers and colleagues from your state or across the nation. Sort the directory by membership type, council and state to find out who is involved and how you can potentially collaborate!

Visit the ASPHN Membership Directory.

**Discover More Benefits of ASPHN Membership**

Your active participation in ASPHN can keep your state on the leading edge.
Internship Highlight: Building Healthy Mothers and Strong Babies

Four ASPHN interns are working on projects to address disparities and barriers to healthy food access for moms and babies with the goal of improving maternal and child health (MCH) outcomes.

ASPHN Interns, Johndee Breedlove and Teona Smith are supporting the Nashville Strong Babies (NSB) Project through their placement at the Metro Public Health Department in Nashville, TN. Through health coaching, group prenatal and pediatric care, NSB seeks to address maternal and infant mortality disparities in seven zip codes within the Metro Nashville/Davidson County, TN.

The interns are engaged in strengthening communication and outreach to vulnerable families that could benefit from NSB services. Johndee, a MSPH student at Meharry Medical College, is developing a community toolkit to market NSB services. With support from Teona, an undergraduate student at Fisk University, this intern pair has identified landlords in housing communities to disseminate and recruit participants for NSB’s coaching sessions and care groups.

ASPHN interns and Xavier University of Louisiana MPH students, Jasmine Sancho and Pier Wells, are developing culturally competent social media approaches for United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC) to reach racial and ethnic minority women for breastfeeding education and awareness.

"Cultural competency must be addressed to ensure health equity for all populations," reported Wells.
Save the Date: ASPHN Health Equity Internship Program Minority Serving Institutions COVID-19 Symposium

Wednesday, April 14, 2021
3 PM – 5 PM EST

Watch for details in future newsletters.

Additionally, the interns are supporting USBC’s efforts in recognizing breastfeeding stakeholders for their work in transforming breastfeeding practices across the US.

For more information about the health equity internship program, email internship@asphn.org.

More Education Opportunities

Promoting Healthy Weight Colloquium 3.0

*Breaking Down Barriers: Food Access During the COVID-19 Pandemic, A Socio-Ecological Perspective*

Held via webcast by University of Tennessee Knoxville 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm EDST Friday, March 26, 2021

Register by March 23.

2021 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference

Hear from the Biden-Harris administration and the new Congress. Space is limited for this virtual event to be held March 16-18.

Register today.